

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/888,718

Examiner

Quang N. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

MALIK, DALE W.

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 04/03/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12 and 15-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

-- SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SORTING E-MAIL USING A VENDOR
REGISTRATION CODE AND A VENDOR REGISTRATION PURPOSE CODE
PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED BY A RECIPIENT --

3. Claims 1, 3-12, and 15-26 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed on 04/03/2006, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

Greenstein (US 6,266,692), teach a system and method for filtering/blocking all unwanted using header-based password, wherein selected senders (*i.e.*, *vendors*) are provided with a valid passcode associated with an e-mail address (**Greenstein, Abstract**).

Schiavone et al. (US 2002/0120702 A1), teach a method and apparatus for dynamic prioritization of electronic mail messages, wherein the new email is associated with a category by reading of a message identifier from header information of the new email message for categorization and categorized display of messages in a recipient's inbox which is divided into sections acting like multiple inboxes (**Schiavone, Figs. 6-7 and paragraphs [0054-0055]**).

Paul (US 5,999,932) teaches a system and method for filtering unsolicited electronic mail messages using data matching and heuristic processing, wherein upon receipt of an email message, the email filter retrieves data from selected fields (*such as FROM, TO, CC, etc.*) of the received email message and compares the retrieved data with data stored in the corresponding category of the user inclusion list (*i.e., identifying whether the username and source identify a valid contact*) (**Paul, C7: L52-62 and C8: L17-31**).

However, the prior art of records fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a computer system and method for sorting e-mail, comprising: receiving an e-mail from an e-mail source; identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration code for identifying a vendor from the e-mail was forwarded; identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code for identifying the purpose of the e-mail, wherein the vendor registration purpose code includes one or more classes of purposes related to the e-mail, the classes including at least one of the following: promotions, billing, and advertising; if the e-mail has a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source and the e-mail has a vendor registration

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purpose code that was previously assigned by a recipient to the e-mail source, presenting the e-mail with other e-mails having vendor registration codes; and if the e-mail does not have a vendor registration code that was previously assigned to the e-mail source or the e-mail does not have a vendor registration purpose code that was previously assigned by the recipient to the e-mail source, sending a message to the e-mail source as set forth in claims 1, 8, 16, 18, and 21. Claims 1, 3-12, 15-26 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitations listed above.

The examiner finds the Applicant's arguments on pages 10-12 of the Remarks filed on 04/03/2006 to be persuasive. The Applicant argued in substance that the combination of prior art of records fail to disclose the features of the invention including identifying whether the e-mail has a vendor registration purpose code for identifying the purpose of the e-mail, wherein the vendor registration purpose code includes one or more classes of purposes related to the e-mail, the classes including at least one of the following: promotions, billing, and advertising, as claimed in the invention to identify the purpose related to a received e-mail message from a vendor (*for example, a user may authorize receiving special promotions or bills from a commercial site but may not want to receive general commercial advertising*) to allow the system to present e-mail to the user sorted into classifications based upon whether the e-mail is from a personal contact, from a commercial vendor from whom the user has indicated that he or she wishes to accept commercial e-mail, or whether the e-mail is from an unknown source (see Remarks, page 10 and Specification, Summary of the Invention, pages 4-8).


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5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should clearly labeled "Comments on Examiner's Amendment".

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3886.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's SPE, Rupal Dharia, can be reached at (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER